The Network Solutions Personal Internet Name (PIN): A URN Namespace for People and Organizations
draft-mealling-pin-urn-00.txt

Abstract

This document describes a URN namespace that is engineered by Network Solutions, Inc for naming people and organizations.

1. Introduction

In many cases, Network Solutions’ directory applications require some unique and persistent way to talk about an individual or organization. For example, white pages services need to determine if one user is distinct from another even if some of the data happens to be the same. Also, e-commerce authentication mechanisms need to identify a user uniquely and possibly over large spans of time. In many cases a customer relationship can last several decades. Such long term customer relationships can outlast any specific email address, Internet service provider, surname, or possibly even the DNS itself.

URNs are a uniquely suited solution for this due to the requirement that they also be unique and permanent. In addition, the
availability of a standardized resolution mechanism makes it possible for vastly different systems to utilize the PIN URN without needing to utilize an application or protocol specific element.

This namespace specification is for a formal namespace.

2. Specification Template

Namespace ID:

"pin" requested.

Registration Information:

Registration Version Number: 1
Registration Date: 2000-04-30

Declared registrant of the namespace:

Michael Mealling
michaelm@netsol.com
Network Solutions
505 Huntmar Park Drive
Herndon, VA 22070

Declaration of structure:

The structure of the NSS is a flat space of alphanumeric characters which have no knowable structure outside of the context of Network Solutions internal resolver.

Relevant ancillary documentation:

None

Identifier uniqueness considerations:

Identifiers are assigned by Network Solutions proprietary registration system in a way that guarantees uniqueness.

Identifier persistence considerations:

The assignment process guarantees that names are not reassigned and that the binding between the name and the entity named is permanent.

Process of identifier assignment:

Names are granted via Network Solutions proprietary registration procedures.

Process of identifier resolution:

PIN URNs are resolved via URN resolvers run by Network Solutions. The data and databases used by those resolvers is proprietary data and can only be accessed by the resolver.
Rules for Lexical Equivalence:

The entire URN is case-insensitive.

Conformance with URN Syntax:

There are no additional characters reserved.

Validation mechanism:

None additional to resolution specified

Scope:

Global
3. Examples

The following examples are not guaranteed to be real. They are listed for pedagogical reasons only.

URN:pin:bs4321234
URN:pin:324kj5hkj45
URN:pin:mm2136

4. Security Considerations

Since the URNs in this namespace are opaque there are no additional security considerations other than those normally associated with the use and resolution of URNs in general.

It is noted however that attempting to resolve a PIN URN through a resolver other than the one provided by Network Solution is prone to error and is not considered authoritative.

References


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